

Indigenous Names

In the "Here We Go Again" Department":

I see where an indigenous (first nations/aboriginal/native/Indian) architect from Montreal is suing the Cleveland Indians for their use of name and mascot. There are so many directions to go with this story. If this person takes Cleveland to Canadian courts and wins, does this mean that whenever the Indians come to Canada, they can't use their name or mascot? Canadian laws do not apply in the United States and vice versa. It reminds me of several years back where an American from San Francisco emailed me saying he would sue me for using PFL to describe our football league as he had trademarked the initials. I emailed him back saying that I was Canadian and American laws did not apply to me while I lived in Canada (or anywhere else in the world other than the United States). I also stated that in Canada it would be very hard to trademark letters of the alphabet. I have never heard back from him.

In another direction, the architect may very well win his case but may lose business over the law suit. A good number of his clients may support the name and mascot of the Cleveland Indians. It reminds me of a few years back when Victor Kiam who used to own the Remington Shaver Company and the New England Patriots. Victor made a snide comment about a women reporter in the Patriots dressing room. He forgot or didn't know that it wasn't men who were buying his razors but women for their men. The company almost went bankrupt and Victor was forced to sell the company and the Patriots.

Lastly, the name Indian is an English name for indigenous, first nations, aboriginal, native people not the indigenous name. Eskimo is an example of indigenous name for indigenous people. The Edmonton Eskimos could face some law troubles. The word Indian is part of our North American Culture. For example, Johnny Cash's song just doesn't work if you substitute Indian with another word.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmNKspKUaTQ>

As a wise old Indian Chief with a very dry sense of humour said "It's a good thing that you white men didn't think you landed in Turkey".